ZONE-00 4
SUMMER SONATA
A MAD DOG, THE WATER BOYS, THE LEGENDARY MAD CLOAKED IN MYSTERY

HEY...
...TSUKIHIKO.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT...
..."OUMA GA TOKI" MEANS?
.....
TWILIGHT...
...THE TIME WHEN MONSTERS STIR AND WHEN CATASTROPHE IS JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN
IT'S A HUMAN TERM.

HA!
LIKE, "THE SUN'S GONE DOWN
AND THE GHOSTS MIGHT GET US SO LET'S ALL RUN ALONG HOME AND HIDE"?
HUMANS SURE ARE DUMB
HISS
ROUJI
DON'T DO THAT
DON'T THROW THOSE IN THE OCEAN

LET'S GO
.....
DON'T BOSS ME AROUND.
THERE ARE...
PEOPLE WE EACH WANT TO SEE AGAIN NEARBY.
UGH
...
hack
hack

Gah
Haaah
I...FEEL LIKE CRAP...
Ssssss
YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT, ANDY.
OH, DEAR ME!
UNDERAGE DRINKING IS PROHIBITED BY LAW
AND JUST WHO FORCED IT DOWN MY THROAT?!!
Stupid!
I'M IN 8TH GRADE! 8TH GRADE!!!
And don't call me Andy!
Honestly!! This is why virgins are so dull.
BUT IF YOU CAN'T HOLD YOUR LIQUOR SAY SOMETHING!
You're puking too much!
TSK! NOT COOL AT ALL!
ARE WE INTERRUPTING?
NOW
WHAT'S THIS?
COMPLIMENT STILETTO TO THE TELLS...
Oh, the cameras are here?
AND HOW MANY CENTURIES AGO WAS THAT...?
Oh, please!
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...
...THE OLD MEN USED TO CALL ME "AN AVATAR OF BACCHUS!"
PLUS I'D ALREADY DIPPED MY PEN IN THE INK...

HOW RE YOU HOLDING UP, SHIMA-KUN?
WHAT KIND OF INHUMAN TOLERANCE DO YOU PEOPLE HAVE..?
ARE YOU ACTUALLY GOING ON PATROL AFTER ALL THAT BOOZE?
HEY, KUROBARA, YOU SURE YOUR MANLY BITS ARE OKAY? I THOUGHT MINE WERE GONERS...
My poor Pikeball
NAH, WE'RE JUST STUCK AT HOME.
HIME AND THE OTHERS WENT OUT CRUISING WITH THE KAZE SIBS
WHAT?!
.....
.....
AW, MAN!

I CAN DO THAT, TECHNICALLY...
This is breaking my comfy dance!
WE'VE GOTTA LEARN HOW TO MERGE AND TRANSFORM OR SOMETHING?
SO LIKE, WHAT?
Grrr!
I WANT TO GO CRUISING TOO!
...AND TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE FROM THE BED TO BENEATH THE STARS
MERGE AND TRANS-FORM. HUH...?
AGITATED
Oh, alas Love love
I WANNA GO HOME.
That pisses me off! WHY DO THE GIRLS HAVE ALL THE FUN?!
FOUR DUDES DRINKING ON A BEACH AT NIGHT
DID HE GO OUT CRUISING TOO?
OH, SO
...WHERE'S KUJO?
UM... NO?
I THOUGHT HE WAS DRINKING WITH BYAKKO-SENPAI
HUH?
YEAH
SENPAI WAS UNUSU-ALLY QUIET TODAY, SO...
WE FIGURED WE'D LEAVE THEM ALONE
WHA--?

ARE YOU INSANE?! KUJO'S A DEFENSELESS HUMAN BEING!
NAH, IT'S FINE. HE'S GOT A REALLY HIGH TOLERANCE FOR BOOZE.
a Creature high!
BYAKKO'S STILL A CREATURE! WHAT IF HE--?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
CALM?
NO WAY. CREATURES LIKE US, MAYBE, BUT I HIGHLY DOUBT A CALM, MELLOW GUY LIKE BYAKKO-SENPAI--
Ha ha
MAYBE NOW, BUT...
...HE WAS QUITE...
...A LONG TIME AGO..
...THE BADASS, YOU KNOW?
MIND YOU, WE'RE TALKING OVER 500 YEARS AGO
...BYAKKO AND KIYOAMI...
BY THE TIME MURAKUMO AND I HOOKED UP WITH THOSE TWO...
...HAD ALREADY CARVED UP ONE OR TWO LEGENDS OF THEIR OWN
Legends as sharp and deadly as swords!

THAT WAS OVER 200 YEARS BEFORE WE WERE BORN
THEY MUST'VE REALLY BEEN SOME-THING
Gulp
...I GUESS THEY REALLY WERE BADASSES
Scary!
WHOA! I'VE HEARD MAYOKO MENTION THAT, BUT...
...HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE MUROMACHI PERIOD ISN'T HE...?!
WAIT...
!!!
?
!
.....
NO PRACTICALITY
...TRUSTED EACH OTHER WITH THEIR LIVES
YOU COULD SAY BYAKKO AND KIYOAMI
WELL...
...THAT WAS A PRETTY INTENSE TIME...
OR IF YOU WANT TO BE ALL MUSHY ABOUT IT...
...THEY WERE CLOSE FRIENDS

I SEE.
AND WHEN KIYOAMI DIED, BYAKKO-SENPAI
GAVE UP EATING HUMANS AND KILLING SENS ELESSLY
AND RETIRED
OH IT WASN'T ANYTHING SO POETIC.
HE JUST SAID "I TIRE OF THIS"
HE ALWAYS DID HAVE A DETACHED, IMMORTAL FEEL TO HIM I WASN'T SURPRISED
BUT HIS RETIREMENT...
...MARKED THE END OF OUR ERA. THE DOMINANCE OF THE EVIL SPIRITS OF THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS...
UNCHALLENGED SINCE THE HEIAN PERIOD QUICKLY BEGAN TO FADE
AND THEN...
...THE TIME OF MANKIND BEGAN
ON THAT NOTE, SHIMA...

WILL YOU...
...REALLY BE ABLE TO KILL ANOTHER HUMAN BEING?
OR SHOULD I SAY
...A HUMAN WHO'S BECOME A MONSTER UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ZONE-00
I HAVE A FEELING YOU'VE ALREADY HUNTED DOWN PLENTY OF THEM IN TOKYO, THOUGH.
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?
PISSED YOURSELF YET?

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF TO YOU...?
...YOU LITTLE BRAT.
YOU SURE HAVE A LOUD BARK...
FRIENDSHIP, GUYS!
You wanna fight, punk?
C'mon, heel!
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY!
Non-violence, everyone.
DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE IT'S COMING FROM?
SO, ABOUT THIS ZONE-OO...

A GOB-MADE VIRGIN POWER PARKA - ¥6,800. (JUST BORROWING IT.)
DTP
.....
SO MURAKUMO'S NOT THE ONLY CREATURE ON THE POLICE FORCE...
FOR NOW, MURAKUMO'S MOBILIZED ALL THE CREATURES AMONG THE POLICE, AND HE'S SNIFFING OUT SOME POSSIBLE SOURCES
IF WE KNEW WE WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE!
...CAPABLE OF MAKING IT.
...HUMANS WOULDN'T BE...
BUT THE FACT IS...
.....
WELL...
WHOEVER IT IS, I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST A PRANK
SO IT'S ONE OF OUR KIND, HUH?

HMM.
THEN PERHAPS IT'S A CREATURE
...WHO WANTS TO RESTORE THE OLD DAYS? SOMEONE WHO YEARNS FOR THE TIME WHEN MOUNTAIN AND RIVER SPIRITS RULED..
IS THAT IT, LITTLE BOY?
YOU, OVER THERE!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT PLAYING MIDNIGHT HIDE AND SEEK...
.....
I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM A HELL HOUND.
YOUR SENSE OF SMELL IS ASTOUNDING.
...IS A WASTE OF TIME WITH ME.

*Note: A mizuchi is a serpent-like water deity.
A SNAKE...?
A MIZUCHI...?!
DTP
BUT IT'S NOT AS IF...
...I WAS REALLY HIDING.
SEEING YOU JUST MADE ME FEEL SO NOSTALGIC...
...THAT I COULDN'T HELP BUT STARE.

YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG.
DO YOU...
...REMEMBER ME?
...?!
A schoolboy?
HEY, KURO-BARA...
...WHEN DID YOU FIND THE TIME TO SEDUCE A HATCHLING MIZUCHI?
I've lost all respect for you.
HOW DARE YOU TREAT ME LIKE BAN-CORAN?
That's just rude!
That's so low! Unforgivable!
Well, I'm straight too
*Water Major Jack Bancoran of Patalliro!
BTT

THE COLD LAKE WATER. THE TANGLES OF ALGAE
...YOU...
Y...
AN INDIGO LEFT EYE. A GOLDEN RIGHT EYE
"SENRYO"?
I SEE...
SO THAT'S THE NAME YOU WERE GIVEN?
SENRYO-KUN...?
A BLACK KITTEN
...IS TSUKIHIKO.
THE NAME I WAS GIVEN...

H-HOW ARE YOU
Y-YOU'RE
YOU'RE ALIVE...?!
SOMEONE SENRYO KNOWS?
BUT IF SO WHAT'S WITH...
THIS DARK, BITTER MIASMA?
OH, I'M ALIVE
I'M JUST NOT HUMAN ANYMORE...
SHIMA
THIS KID
...IS DANGEROUS
AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT LAKE...
...I BECAME A DEITY OF WATER.

A...WATER GUN...?
!
ドン
ハッ
HMM.
A WALTHER P38?
YOU'RE

DON'T ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS, DOLT.
OR DO I LOOK LIKE LUPIN III TO YOU?
NOT AT ALL. You virgin
ANGO SHIMA?
THAT ACTUALLY IS A WATER GUN, RIGHT?
LOOK, KIDDO (JUDGING BY YOUR LOOKS) NO MATTER WHAT IT SHOOTS, A GUN IS A GUN
SO I'M ASSUMING THAT'S AN INVITATION TO FIGHT, YEAH?
SENRYO-KUN
WHO IS HE?
AND WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

IN THE PLACE WHERE I WAS BORN...
...THERE WAS A LAKE WHERE A WATER DEITY WAS SUPPOSED TO LIVE
THE HUMANS USED TO
DUMP TABOO GOODS OR CHILDREN THERE ALL THE TIME
300 YEARS AGO, BECAUSE...
THEY BELIEVED THAT A PURE BLACK CAT WAS AN BAD OMEN
...I WAS ABANDONED THERE
AND HE...
HOW CAN THIS--?
HE WAS LEFT THERE
ON THE SAME DAY
A HUMAN CHILD, THROWN INTO THAT LAKE
WAS HE TRULY...
...HUMAN ONCE?
...THAT YOU...
KID ARE YOU SAYING...

...TRADED PLACES...
...WITH THE MASTER OF THAT LAKE?
WITH...A WATER GUN...?
A RICOCHET...?!!
!!!
SHIMA-KUN!
THAT'S RIGHT.
300 YEARS AGO...
...FROM RIGHT INSIDE THEIR BELLY...
...I ATE THEM ALL UP.

Hmm?
THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR 30 MINUTES STRAIGHT
TENCHO! DID YOU FIND IT--?
RING
RING
WELL, IT'S COMING FROM AROUND HERE...
THIS IS WEIRD! I SWEAR I PUT IT OVER HERE
CELL PHONE, WHERE ARE YOU?
YEAH! DON'T LIKE IT?
THAT'S JUST DANDY KUJO-KUN BUT IT'S BEEN PLAYING YUUJIRO'S "YOGIRI" NONSTOP
AH
THAT'S MURAKUMO'S KARAOKE SPECIALTY
KAKIPI
BEST PRICE BRIDGE SPICE
HAMANEKO
IT'S COMMENCE!!
OH, THEY PUT YOUR SMILEY GUY IN A NEW POSE
CHIP SMITH
SERIO-USLY? WHERE?
FOUND IT, KUJO-KUN
IN THIS K...KIPI BAG.
At the very bottom.
JUDGING BY THE VULGARITY, I BLAME BENTEN OR HIME.

OOH! SO MYSTERIOUS! THERE'S A MESSAGE FROM SENSEI!
Tencho! Tencho!
I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S JUST PLAYING YOU KUJO-KUN
SURE SHE LOOKS LIKE AYA SUGIMOTO
..BUT ALL SHE'S AFTER IS YOUR YOUNG, NUBILE BODY
MT FUJI BROW
WELL!
THAT'S FINE! I MEAN, IT'S NOT FINE, BUT...
I'm a healthy teenager after all!
SOMETIMES I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!
•YOU CAN'T BUY ONE THERE!
Nonono!
Where'd you get that flower from?
When I got a call, a dancer...
WELL... YOU'RE YOUNG.
WHAT ABOUT YOU TENCHO?
IS THERE A GIRL IN YOUR LIFE YOU JUST CAN'T FORGET?
IT NEVER SEEMS TO LAST VERY LONG THOUGH...
JUST A WEEK MAYBE THREE DAYS..
.....
YEAH
THERE WAS ONE
A HUMAN
A FOREIGNER SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL...

That sure got your attention
YUP
SHE WAS THE LADY OF SHIMA HOUSE AT THE TIME
A FOREIGNER..!
WAS SHE BLONDE?!
A MARRIED WOMAN?!
A BLONDE, MARRIED WOMAN?!!
SO MYSTERIOUS!!!
I WASN'T THE CLEANER!
DID JA HAVE SEX IN THE HALL..
OH THAT'S WHY YOU PEEKED UP
IN SHIMA'S HOUSE?
THAT'S RIGHT
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!!
YUP
EVERY NOW AND THEN I LOOK AT SHIMA-KUN AND THINK "HE'S SURE GOT HER GENES"
AND I ADMIT IT HURTS A LITTLE...
...BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT

NOW WHERE DID YOU WANDER IN FROM?
SHOES AREN'T ALLOWED IN THE INN
HUH?
PUPPY-CHAN'S COME TO VISIT
WAIT
THAT'S NOT KUROBARA?
KUROBARA?
WELL, WELL
SO MY ADORABLE BABY BROTHER
IS STILL GOING AROUND USING OUR NAME HMM?
REALLY
HOW CUTE IS THAT

ヒトリ
Heh heh heh
DON'T WORRY. NOW...
IT'S JUST A LOVE BITE.
メリッ
ミシミシ
--GO...
Whaaaa

YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE A SHORT FUSE.
...ROUJI
HE'S KINDA DEAD
.....
AND TWITCH ING
THEY'VE BEEN SCOUTED BY MY SIDE
MY BUSINESS IS WITH HIS RESIDENT OGRE AFTER ALL.
WOULD YOU LIKE IT BETTER IF I'D CHOPPED HIS HEAD OFF?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT HUMAN NECKS SNAP LIKE TWIGS?
HMM?
MY KID BROTHER
...WHY DON'T YOU COME TOO?
"YOUR SIDE"?
YOU, BENTEN AND MURAKUMO. THE FOUR GENERALS, TOGETHER AGAIN.
BUT HEY, BYAKKO...
AS IN, THE OPPOSITE OF YOUR SIDE.

YOU WANT ME TO DEAL ZONE-00 TO THE HUMANS?
NO THANKS
MY WHAT A HIGH AND MIGHTY FOX
BUT TO A HELL HOUND OF KUROBARA HOUSE
YOU
...ARE WELL WORTH HUNTING!

NO OFFENSE BUT..
..IF YOU ATTACK WITH A PINKY..
I'LL HAVE TO DO THE SAME IF THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT..
...PUNK.
...YOU WON'T EVEN SCRATCH ME.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

I'LL HAVE YOU STUFFED AND MOUNTED
OH, ARE WE PLAYING ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS?
YEP...
...AND LIKE IT OR NOT...
...YOU GET TO BE "PAPER".

HEY, NOW...
.....
...DIDN'T YOU...?
YOU PLAYED PAPER ON PURPOSE...
...CAUGHT ON QUICKLY
YOU CERTAINLY...
!

FLAMES
THAT'S HEAT...
LONG ENOUGH KID
I'VE FINALLY BEEN RELEASED
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...?
HE'S A NINE-TAIL
...BY THE TIME YOU WERE BORN
...THAT I'D ALREADY SEALED THIS FORM AWAY...

BUT FEEL FREE TO DRINK IT IN NOW!
THE SHAPE OF A MAN WHO SHARED A LEGEND WITH AN OGRE...
WELL?
MANLY, ISN'T IT?

...A NINE-TAILED FOX!
HE'S A TEN-TAIL...NO...
WELL...
...THAT MAY BELONG IN THE HEAVY-WEIGHT DIVISION BUT...
A DIRTY JOKE PLEASE DON'T THINK TOO HARD ABOUT IT.
...I'D SAY WE'RE EVEN.
KIYOAMI. IT'S ME.
THUMP
I WONDER HOW LONG HE PLANS TO SLEEP...?
HUH?
LISTEN TO ME!
ZONE-00 & 1 END